
Romans 11:33

INCREASING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

Ashland Church of Christ 2008



Works — Do You Do Them? The People Had a Mind to Work

Text: Nehemiah 4:6

Key Text: Nehemiah 4:6b, "...for the people had a mind to work."

Introduction:

1. The Bible proposes grace, faith, and works together (Ephesians 2:8-10; James 2:20, 26).
2. Some try to separate them (grace only and faith only) (see James 2:24).
3. The components actually work together nicely and do not stand in opposition to one another.

I. Grace and works (Ephesians 2:8-10).

A. Ephesians 2:8:

1. Grace – God’s part.
2. Faith – our part.

B. In our month discussing the topic of faith, we learned that faith is an action word (see Hebrews 11).

C. Grace, while it is a free gift, is certainly conditional, in this case conditional on our faith.

II. Faith and works (James 2:20, 26).

- A. It is true that we can believe and have no good works (James 2:19).**
- B. It is not possible to have saving faith without good works.**
- C. Further, works are the way that we are justified (James 2:24).**
- D. Other thoughts:**
 - 1. Our fruits (works) are how we are known (Matthew 7:20).**
 - 2. Our works are what we will be judged by (2Timothy 4:1).**

III. Works.

- A. We know that God requires us to work (John 14:15; James 1:22).**
- B. We know that Christians are designed (created in Christ) to do good works (Ephesians 2:10).**
- C. From the previous points,**
 - 1. We know that genuine faith will produce works.**
 - 2. We know that God's grace is conditional on our works.**

Conclusion:

- 1. We need to be about works.**
- 2. We need to be about good works.**
- 3. We need to be about God's good works.**
- 4. Matthew 5:16.**